1: Linton E-5 (1926-27) 1933 FY8 Tanala FY8

396 Canoes are always hewn from green logs, the work proceeding as rapidly as possible, to take advantage of the initial softness of the wood. The outside is roughly shaped with axes and the inside hollowed out through a long slot about one-half the diameter of the log in width. When the sides have been worked to a thickness of 1½ to 2 inches, they are spread until they are nearly vertical. To do this, a row of small fires is kindled along the bottom of the canoe. When they are burning briskly, the cavity is filled with the leaves and stems of a green, succulent plant. The steam from this softens the wood and the sides are gradually opened out by driving in longer and longer thwarts. When the sides have been spread, the canoe, with the thwarts still in place, is weighted and sunk in a stream for a few days until the wood has set. Afterward, the thwarts are removed and the canoe worked smooth inside and out.

The above account was obtained from a member of one of the eastern Tanala gentes. It seems certain that all the Tanala do not spread the sides of their canoes by this method, but I was unable to determine its distribution. Most of my informants had never seen a canoe made.

501 Sails are unknown. Paddles, like the canoes, are crudely made. The usual type is about 4 feet long with a moderately broad blade, in the form of a pointed oval, and a plain handle. I often saw spades, or even simple sticks, used as paddles in ferrying and there was a taboo against the use of paddles in one of the large rivers in the Menabe territory. This taboo is now ignored but the old people say that while it was in force the crocodiles in this river never attacked people.

TRADE

438 The Tanala are not a trading people and I doubt whether, even now, there is a single Tanala merchant or shopkeeper. Until relatively recent times the only commerce has been a little barter with the Betsileo for iron implements, silver jewelry and fine cloth and with Europeans for firearms and beads. The government has attempted to establish weekly markets at a few of the principal towns, but has met with little success

437 What trade there is, is in the hands of Betsileo and Imerina who have settled in the larger villages. Their stock consists mostly of trinkets and luxuries, the average Tanala family still producing nearly everything it needs. The value of money is thoroughly understood, but most of the trade is still by barter, the Tanala